

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for processing coins introduced in a coin tester of an automatic unit delivering goods or services, said coin tester containing a selector for distinguishing the value of introduced coins, a pre-receptacle, at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, including a plurality of locations, each location being able to receive only one coin of any value, a bowl for giving back coins, and a safe for storing coins in bulk, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and identifying a first introduced coin having a first value;

temporarily storing the coin in the pre-receptacle;

if conditions relating to the value of said first introduced coin and to the number of coins which are present in the reserve having the same value as said first introduced coin are satisfied, collecting said first introduced coin into the reserve at any empty location among said plurality of locations;

giving back change by transferring one or more coins to the bowl;

receiving and identifying a second introduced coin having a second value;

temporarily storing said second introduced coin in the pre-receptacle;

if conditions relating to the value of said second introduced coin, and to the number of coins which are present in the reserve having the same value as said second

introduced coin are satisfied, collecting said second coin into the reserve at any empty location in said reserve;

wherein an introduced coin is stored in the safe instead of the reserve, if the reserve is full, or if the number of coins which are present in the reserve having the same value as said introduced coin is equal to a predetermined maximum number of coins;

wherein the maximum number of coins of a certain predetermined value is equal to the capacity of the reserve.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the maximum number of coins of the value of said first introduced coin is different from the maximum number of coins of the value of said second introduced coin.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the maximum number of coins of each value is predetermined.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising calculating, at a first pre-defined interval, the maximum number of coins of each value able to be stored in the reserve, according to the amounts of coins of each value received and taken out from the reserve during a first determined period, and according to the maximum

number of coins of each value as determined during the preceding calculation step.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step for collecting the coin into the reserve includes storing the coin in a determined empty location of the reserve according to the value of the coin.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step for collecting the coin by storing it in the reserve includes a step for storing in memory the location and the value of the coin.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising manually loading the reserve, so that it contains the maximum number of coins of each value at intervals longer than said first pre-defined intervals.

12. (previously presented) A device for storing coins of different values, implementing a method according to claim 1, said device comprising: a selector, a pre-receptacle and at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, said reserve including several locations, each location being able to receive a single coin, a safe for storing coins, and a bowl for giving back coins.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The device according to claim 12, further comprising a means for identifying each location and for storing in memory the contents of the location.

15. (previously presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the locations are mobile within the reserve and that the device comprises means for detecting the position of each location.

16. (previously presented) The device according to claim 12 further comprising means for identifying each coin and for determining the location associated with the coin.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A method for processing coins introduced in a coin tester of an automatic unit delivering goods or services, said coin tester containing a selector for distinguishing the value of introduced coins, a pre-receptacle, at least one reserve for recycling certain coins, including a plurality of locations, each location being able to receive only one coin of any value, a bowl for giving back coins, and a safe for storing coins in bulk, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving and identifying a coin;

temporarily storing said coin in the pre-receptacle;

giving back said coin or collecting said coin into said safe or into one of said plurality of locations in said at least one reserve,

wherein, in the step for collecting said coin, said coin is stored in said safe instead of the reserve, if the reserve is full, or if the number of coins which are present in the reserve having the same value as said coin is equal to a predetermined maximum number of coins;

wherein the maximum number of coins of a certain predetermined value is equal to the capacity of the reserve.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein one of said plurality of location has previously been used to collect another coin of different value than said coin, after said other coin has been previously removed.